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## Apotheosis of Stalin

Dispatches describe the elaborate and fantastic preparations for the 70th birthday of Stalin on December 21 as "the greatest give-away jackpot program in history, with the Russian overlord of world communism on the receiving end," the satellite states behind the iron curtain being forced to outdo the Russians. Tons and tons of gifts have descended on Moscow from the communist world.

### An Associated Press dispatch states:

Reports reaching London through the Soviet monitor and other channels indicate that there will be more than 1,000,000 parcels bearing the tag "Happy Birthday Dear Comrade." Besides, there is a veritable flood of big crates containing the more unwieldy gifts—all the way from motorcycles to airplanes. Even whole factories are among the many carloads converging on the Kremlin from satellite states and far territories of the USSR.

With the gifts come all sorts of honors, pledges of special work, affirmation of loyalty and devotion, endearing greetings in the familiar communist pattern. Long freight trains hauled gifts into Moscow. There were 70 cars—One for each birthday—from communist east Germany. A freight train of 11 cars left Warsaw with presents from Poland. The locomotive of the train was almost hidden by the huge portrait of Stalin it bore as it pulled out.

Numerous cities have held public displays of Stalin's presents. In impoverished Warsaw, six halls were needed to hold all the gifts, eight in unwilling Latvia, probably compulsory donations. Poets and playwrights have turned out special birthday works in many languages. Paintings have come from communists in Britain, France and Sweden. Czech communists have besides thousands of gifts attempted to secure 9,000,000 signatures on a birthday greeting and are unveiling two huge statues to him and renamed its highest mountain, Geolachova, "Mount Stalin."

It is the same story all along behind the iron curtain clear to Red China. And the day is consecrated as a holiday. Communism, outside of statism, and communist terminology has become czarism and its old program of world conquest, inaugurated by Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, with a new aristocracy, a caste system and slavery and Stalin the glorified and deified czar.

### As the New York Times remarks:

The celebration marks the communist apotheosis of Stalin as all-around genius and demigod, in a manner alien to western thought and feeling. Already hailed by the head of the subjugated Russian Orthodox church as the leader who is piloting Russia "along the ancient, sanctified road of power, greatness and glory," Stalin is now being celebrated as the "father and teacher, the eagle's glory of the century" as the "military genius of our time," the "theoretician and initiator of the transformation of nature," the author of great victories in all branches of the national economy, science and culture, the "coryphaeus of world science," the "inexhaustible source of creative inspiration in all the arts," the "inspired leader of the world proletariat" and the "genius-creator of the friendship of the Soviet peoples," before whom the world bows down (or should).

Of course all this has nothing to do with communism except as a means to an end, but a recrudescence of the "little father" oriental concept of the czars and their tyranny which defies its rulers and forces their subjects to seek safety in flattery, servility and sycophancy "to blend the pregnant hinges of the knee where thrift may follow fawning."

## Passing the 50,000 Mark

Salem is feeling quite cheery over the prospects of the census figure return expected next year. All estimates have suggested the population count should show over 50,000 persons in the city. That would put Salem in the metropolitan center class.

Besides indicating that Salem will have entered the medium-sized city category, what would the 50,000 figure mean otherwise?

With a population of that extent, Salem will assume the responsibilities that go with size.

The city has experienced an almost steady, vigorous growth since the first of the century. Only during the depression years did Salem show but a small percentage increase. But there comes a time when an expanding population more than uses up the facilities and program of the basic community. That is the time when the previously-considered plans for the city have reached their limit in scope, under the circumstances. It is then that adjustments take place.

For instance, in the case of the downtown business section, the effect is obvious now, regardless of what the census takers find out next year. The city's population has increased to the point where parking facilities and traffic control as heretofore practiced are inadequate. That is why the Baldock traffic plan was essential not only to the downtown section but to the entire metropolitan area.

Sewage disposal is another case in point. Leaving aside new state restrictions as to disposal into the river, the city still finds that the increase in population taxes facilities now available.

These indications of growth are typical of a routine, accompanying expansion of the city services and facilities.

At the point, however, when the population passes the 50,000-mark, new vistas of expansion and development will be open. Salem will need the vision and determination to meet the challenge of that future.

## Fate Carves Own Penalty

New York, Dec. 20 (AP)—Fate carved its own penalty for two confessed holdup men.

During a Brooklyn holdup in November, 1947, George Del Toro, 21, was shot in the spine by a policeman.

Pedro Hernandez, 31, was shot in the groin after a holdup of a taxicab driver in September, 1948.

Yesterday, Kings county Judge Carmine J. Marascio held temporary court in a hospital prison ward where both men are paralyzed from the bullet wounds, and will be confined to wheel chairs for life.

The judge told them: "I am convinced that no matter how severe my sentence might be, it could not compare to the punishment that is already yours. You are facing a living death. My sentence is the time you have served here, less one day."

## BY BECK

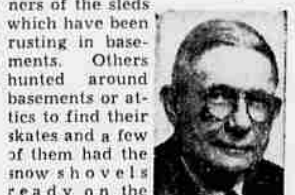
### Things to Worry About



## SIPS FOR SUPPER

### Still Time

In the neighborhood of the 82,847 or thereabouts residents of Salem (Chamber of Commerce figures) who woke this morning without finding snow on the ground were surprised, for there were nearly that many told us personally yesterday they were sure it was going to snow during the night and a lot of them went home last night and put ski grease or something on the runners of the sleds which have been rusting in basements. Others hunted around basements or attics to find their skates and a few of them had the snow shovels ready on the front porch so they could shovel their way out of the house and to the garage. As we said, that many folks were surprised, but we doubt very much if a darned one of them was disappointed when they found the weather was more like spring than winter.



and found: 108 pieces of chicken wire, some three inches long; a piece of copper wire, bits of chewed up wood, grass, leaves and puppy worms. "I've been practicing 22 years and I've never seen anything like this," Dr. Hawley said.

We note in foregoing paragraph that the dog in question is of the English type. That stubborn streak which lets them muddle through most anything.

Lights on the courthouse Christmas tree will shine again tonight putting to shame all of those folks who try to tell their kids there's no Santa Claus.

From what reports we could gather today there were more ducks that got away yesterday afternoon than got shot but it isn't because the sportsmen did not try.

## Poker Game Proves Costly

San Pedro, Calif., Dec. 20 (AP)—You never know what a friendly little poker game may lead to. George Waters told police yesterday that: He won \$1,600 from one Frank Billings in an impromptu poker session. Billings paid him with a \$2,400 check, for which Waters forked over \$400 in cash and a \$400 check. But Billings' check bounced.

Waters went looking for Billings, found him on a street and asked what he was going to do about the check. Said Billings:

"Why, there's nothing wrong with that check. Lemme borrow your car and I'll go to the bank right now and get your money."

Reported Waters to police: He'd now like to find his \$400, the \$400 check, his new automobile—and Billings.

## POOR MAN'S PHILOSOPHER

### City Life Doesn't Interest King of Jr. Vegetable Growers

New York (AP)—When the good earth will pay a fellow \$10 an hour, should he leave the farm for a career in the city? The new king of the nation's junior vegetable growers has decided there is only one answer: "I'm staying on the farm."

City life holds no attractions for 20-year-old Russel L. Sears, Jr., of Cumminston, Mass., who was crowned champion of the National Junior Vegetable Growers' association in Washington last week.

He won the \$500 first prize by raising and marketing \$1,300 worth of vegetables on a two- and one-half acre plot. Several thousand farm youth competed in the contest, sponsored by the A. and P. Food stores.

Sears, a six-foot, 200-pound junior at the University of Massachusetts, explained that he grossed the \$1,300 by spare time work on his father's 300-acre farm.

"My father gave me a small plot to encourage me," he said, "and I worked it during vacation and on week-ends home from college.

"My big crop was potatoes. I hired what help I needed, and sacked and sold the crop myself to grocery stores. I put in only 45 hours of my own time altogether, and the profit figures out at better than \$10 an hour."

In addition he won \$100 in prizes at three local fairs. "I also got 3,000 servings for our table from my garden," said Sears, "and 150 pint boxes for

Young Sears wants to get rid of the farm's herd of 36 dairy cattle because "I don't care for cows—they just take up too much of a man's time."

His chief crops will be potatoes, chickens and tourists. He plans to modernize the 23-room old family farm house to attract the tourists—summer residents from the city.

"I don't want to live in a city myself," he smiled. "I've seen a city. I don't like the pace. There is more independence on a farm. It's easier to be your own boss."

"And, you know, you can get a lot more things done on a farm, because you don't have to change your clothes every time you turn around. You can waste a lot of time getting in and out of a dress suit."

## WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

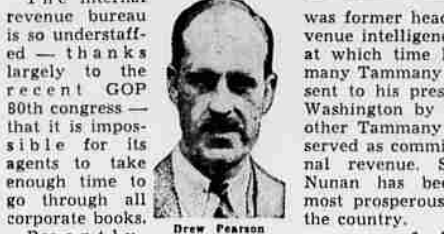
### Treasury Agents Stumble on Petroleum Tax Fraud Case

(Ed. Note—This is the third in Drew Pearson's series of columns on tax evasion—a question of importance to every taxpayer who has to pay more as a result of deficiencies by others.)

#### By DREW PEARSON

Washington—It is not often that treasury agents turn up a tax fraud case against a big corporation. This is partly because most big corporations have their books audited by reputable firms, but also because it is almost impossible for the T-men to scrutinize carefully the complicated books of the big corporations.

The internal revenue bureau is so understaffed — thanks largely to the recent GOP 80th congress — that it is impossible for its agents to take enough time to go through all corporate books.



Recently, however, treasury agents stumbled into what they considered an airtight tax fraud case against the Mid-Continent Petroleum corporation in Tulsa, Okla.

The case was considered so airtight that there was not the slightest doubt, they thought, about criminal prosecution. However, the wire-pullers got busy and the criminal aspects of the Mid-Continent case are now on ice.

The oil company will not have to pay a tax bill of \$6,000,000 plus 50 percent penalty, as recommended by the T-men. Instead, honest taxpayers will have to make up the difference.

The reason the treasury's case against Mid-Continent was considered so airtight was that a former accountant for the company had furnished the evidence for the government.

While working for the company, he had caught it making capital expenditures for plant expansion during the war years and then charging them up as "repairs."

Though the lower offices of Mid-Continent showed the real nature of the improvements, these improvements were changed to real "repairs," when the books went up to the top office. Repairs, of course, are tax deductible, while improvements are a capital investment and not deductible.

Mid-Continent officials gave careful instructions that the receipts and orders for the improvements be destroyed, but one of its bookkeepers just as carefully retained them and turned them over to the treasury. As a result the case was considered ironclad.

The agent who first handled this case was Frank W. Lohn, chief of intelligence for the Kansas City district. He recommended criminal prosecution and sent the case on to Mike Seltzer, chief of the penal division of the Kansas City office.

But while the case was still pending in Kansas City, Daniel Bolich, deputy commissioner of internal revenue in Washington, requested a conference at Oklahoma City. This was held, and Bolich, for reasons best known to himself, came all the way to Oklahoma from Washington to participate in the conference.

Lohn and Seltzer, who also participated, informed him that the Mid-Continent case was fraud and should be prosecuted.

Despite this, Commissioner Bolich ordered the investigation stopped and had the case transferred to Washington.

When the case reached Washington, a conference was held on Bolich's office, at which General Counsel Charles Oliphant was not represented. This is highly unusual. For, ordinarily, a criminal case must go to the chief counsel's office for disposal. It does not go to the office of a deputy commissioner.

However, Bolich ordered it to his office, and although the general counsel was not represented, the defaulting oil company was represented by Benjamin Saunders of the law firm of Charley Hamel.

Hamel, former head of the board of tax appeals, and formerly in the internal revenue bureau, is a republican who sometimes has been retained by leading democrats suffering from tax troubles. It was Hamel who expertly handled the income-tax cases of Boss Frank Hague of Jersey City and Mayor Ed Kelly of Chicago, both during the Hoover administration.

Oliphant finally decided to let Mid-Continent off for \$3,000,000—instead of \$6,000,000 recommended by the T-men. He also decided against any appreciable audit penalty.

Only after this was decided did Bolich send the case to General Counsel Oliphant with instructions to close the penal side of the case—in other words, drop criminal prosecution.

Deputy Commissioner Bolich

was former head of internal revenue intelligence in New York, at which time he was close to many Tammany leaders. He was sent to his present key spot in Washington by Joe Numan, another Tammany man, who once served as commissioner of internal revenue. Since resigning, Numan has been one of the most prosperous tax lawyers in the country.

Mid-Continent's vice president & secretary is E. McClure Ruzer, who is France's law partner, and a director of various Maryland concerns. Other directors include Russell Faris, chairman of the Ward Baking Co., Maurice Newton, a partner of Hallgarten and Co., and a director of Adams Express, Anacosta Copper, Paramount Pictures, Gotham Hosiery and the Waldorf-Astoria; Otis McClintock, head of the First National bank and trust of Tulsa and director of the Frisco RR.

Mid-Continent owns or leases 65,427 acres of oil and gas leases in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas and New Mexico, on which it operates a total of 1830 oil wells and 50 gas wells. In addition, the company leases 1,126,443 acres of undeveloped oil and gas land, owns 1592 tank cars, and operates 1,436 miles of pipelines through its subsidiary, Mid-Continent Pipeline company.

The company also operates a refinery in West Tulsa, Okla., with a storage facility of 1,982,500 barrels. It also owns 18.95 percent of the Great Lakes Pipeline company which supplies gasoline to Kansas City, Omaha, Des Moines, Minneapolis and Chicago.

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## BY CLARE BARNES, JR.

### White Collar Zoo



"Can anybody let me have five bucks till payday?"

## MacKENZIE'S COLUMN

### Winter Months Will Go Far Toward Settling China's Fate

By DeWITT MacKENZIE

(AP Foreign Affairs Analyst)

The winter months which now have most of China in their icy grip are likely to go far toward determining whether the Chinese communists can consolidate their sweeping military victory over the nationalist regime.

The problem has ceased to be primarily a military one, though Chiang Kai-Shek is preparing to continue guerrilla warfare throughout the length and breadth of the country. It has become chiefly politico-economic — with emphasis decidedly on the economic.

Communist Leader Mao Tse-Tung now is faced with the monumental task of providing the sinews of life for approximately one-fourth of the world's population. These millions are scattered over a land which is one-third greater than continental United States—a vast area that has been impoverished by long years of war.

Many parts of China are hungry and ill equipped to meet the winds of winter. And the Chinese, like the rest of humanity, think with their bellies when hunger overtakes them.

The Chinese communists have led the horse to water, and now have to make it drink.

They realize what they are up against, for the Red new China news agency in a dispatch from Peiping admits that the communists are in serious economic and financial difficulties. This message quoted General Mao as saying:

"Our situation can be generalized as follows: There are difficulties, but there are ways and means, and there is hope."

Fred Hampson, veteran AP correspondent in China, reports: "Inflation is rampant again. Prices continue to be broken down. Discontent is widespread in both cities and countryside. Unemployment is at dangerously high levels. Taxes are high and getting higher. There are reports already of food shortages in some districts. There still is enough food in the cities."

Hampson says that 60 to 90 percent of the Chinese he has polled who were opposed to Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek's Kuomintang are opposed also to the communists.

What is the significance of that? Well, I should say it fits in with our idea that the masses think with their bellies when times are hard.

The Chinese masses aren't politically conscious, but they are economically conscious. They gauge a government by what life gives them in the way of necessities under that regime, and by the amount of taxation saddled onto them.

Political designations don't mean much. You can't eat 'em or build a fire with 'em to stave off the cold.

That's a rough outline of the problem the victorious Reds have to solve. This in itself is a full-time job, but it is terribly complicated by the fact that the civil war will continue in guerrilla form.

Chiang Kai-Shek has set up his government on the big island of Formosa, and proposes to direct guerrilla activities from there. He also will maintain, so far as possible, a blockade to prevent the Reds from getting outside supplies by water.

The Nationalist government is authoritatively stated to be ready to make sweeping reforms on Formosa to win American economic and diplomatic assistance in defending the island against Red attacks. Should the communists succeed in capturing this strategic island it would, of course, solve many of their immediate difficulties.

Comes next spring, and we shall know a lot more about the future of China.

## OPEN FORUM

### Set of 'Do's' for Baby-Sitting

To the Editor: The information given below came to me in a clipping from a newspaper in Minnesota and I thought it was worth printing for the benefit of others in Salem, like myself, who may not have seen just this concise set of "do's" concerning baby-sitting. I am hopeful that you will feel the same way about it and will see fit to give this letter space in your daily.

These instructions on "What to do in case of fire" came from the welfare division of the State of Minnesota.

- Get all children out first before doing anything else.
- Call the fire department.
- Don't let children try to rescue toys, pets, clothing, or other property.

For the parents:

- Carefully instruct sitter what to do in an emergency including:

- a. how many children and where they are sleeping
- b. where the exits are
- c. where the phone is

- d. the fire department telephone number
- e. where the nearest neighbor is
- f. where the parents can be reached

- Forbid smoking or handling of fire or doing any unnecessary cooking.
- Prepare the heating system so that the sitter need not touch it; otherwise give instructions on how to tend it safely.
- Remind sitter not to step outside an automatically locking door.
- Provide sitter with a flashlight.

MRS. R. R. BOARDMAN, Chairman Public Safety Section, Education Dept. Salem Woman's Club

## This Hunter's Good Luck Turned Out to Be Bad Luck

Bound Brook, N. J., Dec. 20 (AP)—John Wojnar is a crestfallen hunter today.

Wojnar has been hunting deer in season for more than five years. This year he bagged a nine-point buck, and entered it in the 21st annual buck deer contest run by Frank Efinger, owner of a Bound Brook sporting goods store.

Wojnar brought his kill in first. The buck, along with eight others, was hung on a rack outside Efinger's store to await the judging.

During the night thieves made off with Wojnar's buck. The hunter still was indisputably eligible for the prize for bringing in the first buck of the season.

That's just the trouble—the prize for the first deer is a free mounting of the head.

## Red Tape Ties Up Phone Call Asking About Water Shortage

San Francisco, Dec. 20 (AP)—The San Francisco Chronicle wanted to find out about New York City's bathless Friday so a reporter called the information desk at Grand Central station.

"This is San Francisco Chronicle calling," the reporter said. "How are you doing back there with your water shortage?"

"This is a railroad station. We don't give out information like that."

"We know it's a railroad station. What we want to know is how you, personally, are getting along during the water shortage. Did you shave Friday?"

"You'd better talk to our public department."

"Look, we don't want any information about the railroad. We want to know about people. Do you have enough water to drink?"

"Who did you say this was?" "The San Francisco Chronicle in San Francisco. Did you have a bath or shower today?"

"We're not allowed to give out information like that. We just give out train information."

"Well, you live in New York, don't you?"

"Yes."

"Where?"

"Brooklyn. But I'd better turn you over to the station manager."

## Maybe the Letter Would Turn Up

Wichita, Kans., Dec. 20 (AP)—Wichita postal clerks smiled today as they sorted 400,000 pieces of letter mail. Maybe that letter would turn up.

The cause of the merriment was a note pushed through a letter slot yesterday. The note writer explained that she had mailed two Christmas cards in sealed envelopes, but had put two-cent stamps on the envelopes instead of three-centers.

The one-cent stamps were attached to the note. Would the postal workers please put them on the letters?